The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

Tobin Says Wage-Hour Law is Obsolete: Asks 75-Cent Minimum, Wider Coverage

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin declared that the Wage and Hour law of 1938, in terms of present-day economic conditions, is as obsolete as a 1929 model airplane.

Testifying before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Mr. Tobin urged 14 specific, but several steps for improvement in the present statute:

1. Raise the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour and provide for future cost-of-living increases to set higher rates where possible—up to a dollar an hour.

2. Extend the act's coverage to "activities affecting interstate commerce" and do away with the present hair-line and clarify along fair lines the many exemptions now in the act.

3. Strengthen the child-labor provisions.

4. Define the term "regular rate" of pay so as to eliminate so-called "overtime-on-overtime" problems such as those recently raised in the longshore industry.

5. Improve administration of the act by (a) centralizing the administrative functions in the Secretary of Labor, (b) granting the Secretary rule-making authority under the act, and (c) authorizing the Department of Labor to supervise back wage payments and to sue in behalf of employes in case of default.

Backing up all the steps recommended by the Secretary, William R. McComb, administrator of the law, said there are now about 22,000,000 workers covered by its minimum wage provisions and that out of this total, there are, at most, 14 million who are now earning less than 75 cents an hour.

The administrator said the proposed changes would bring approximately 7,000,000 additional workers under the minimum wage provisions as a result of changes in the coverage language and the elimination or modification of certain exemptions contained in the act. He estimated that 1,250,000 of this 7,000,000 are earning less than 75 cents an hour, he earning above 60 cents an hour. The actual increase in the minimum wage, he explained, is not 35 cents an hour, but typically an increase of 6 to 15 cents an hour.

No Serious Economic Recession in Sight, Further Declines Likely, Agency Says

Washington.—The Bureau of Agriculture] Economics predicted that no serious economic recession is in sight, but said that further declines in industrial production, prices and consumer incomes may be expected.

Price trends during the last 12 months reflected a leveling off of economic activity, the bureau said, as well as an easing of inflationary pressures.

"The tremendous demand for most types of consumer goods seems to be slackening," the bureau said in its monthly economic forecast report. "Backlog demands have largely disappeared, new forward buying by consumers have increased."

It will add to the likelihood, the report said, of further declines in business activity, author

"A sharp drop in the general level of economic activity does not seem to be in the picture. Despite some declines, expenditures for new plant and equipment and private housing will remain relatively large.

"Federal, state and local governments are likely to spend more than in 1948. Consumer incomes are likely to support larger consumer purchases in 1949 than last year. If farm production were large in 1949, there would be a strong support to farm incomes. This is expected to follow, it was noted.

"A sharp, over-all decline in farm prices is not expected, however," the bureau said.

WFTU Planning Drive To Extend 'Red' Domain

By ADRIENNE TASSLER

European Correspondent for the AFL News Service

Paris.—Provisional organizing committees of the Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions are holding hush-hush sessions in Paris. At least one American trade unionist is believed to be attending on them.

This is a clear evidence that the WFTU has not given up the ghost. Hit hard by the constant pummeling of the American Federation of Labor, which refused to affiliate with the organization and the subsequent withdrawal of the CIO and British and Dutch labor federations, the WFTU is working overtime to extend its influence in world labor circles. The sessions here are the forerunner of a concerted, noisy propaganda and organizing drive.

WFTU attaches declined to release the names of delegates to the meetings. Louis Saillant, "La Peuple," organ of the Communist-controlled General Confederation of Labor (CGT), carried the names of Soviet representatives. Committees include members from France, Italy, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, the U. S. S. R.—and probably the Far East, Latin America.

Reliable sources reported Donald Henderson, president of the CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union, was invited to attend. He was known to be in Paris but could not be reached. His attendance at the WFTU meetings would be a definite indication of the policy of the CIO, which early this year broke away from the WFTU.

Purpose of the meeting is to lay the groundwork for the creation of 5 new trade departments—metals, textiles, foodstuffs, hides, leather and mines—to rival departments already in existence. One, the International Transport Workers Federation, led the fight against affiliating with the WFTU.

The actual organizing conference will take place from June 15 to 25 and are expected to produce the WFTU Paris Peace Congress with concrete accomplishments. After the Congress, new conferences will be held. All unions in the affected industries, regardless of their present relations with the WFTU, will be invited to participate.

Ultimately it is planned to establish rival trade secretariats of craft workers in at least 16 fields of activities.

The WFTU, according to reports, has been urging some affiliated unions to withdraw from international trade secretariats. This has provoked continued association with the "Red"-controlled organization. Louis Saillant, secretary-general of the WFTU, reported to the Soviet-bloc CIO officials to attend the WFTU conferences in violation of the parent organization's policy.

WFTU officials hope to put on an impressive demonstration of solidarity and strength when delegates gather for the Milan Congress late in June.

40-Hour Week For Local Transit Workers, Coverage Under Wage-Hour Law, Urged

Washington.—Establishment of a 40-hour week for the 250,000 employes in the nation's local transit industry was urged before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare subcommittee holding hearings on proposed amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Removal of the existing exemption of the transit industry from the act's provisions was pressed by John Spradling, president of the AFL's Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes, with 150,000 members in the industry.

Spradling termed the exemption a "gross inequity" and declared that the bill (S. 248), under consideration by the committee, is "inadequate" to correct the present inequities.

He also told the committee that present opposition of management to the 40-hour week violated wartime pledges by management to the National Labor Board to institute the 40-hour week when the manpower situation permitted.

He cited Congressional support for the union proposal, quoting Report No. 267 of the House Committee on Labor and Education:

"The committee believes that such (transit) employes need the protection which the act provides and that it is both justifiable and practical to apply the requirements of the act to such enterprises."

To further counter management contentions of impracticality of the 40-hour week, Spradling presented figures cited its installation in the railroad industry. Following agreement by a Presidential Emergency Board in 1941, current 40-hour operation of more than 90 local transit systems was reported by Spradling.

"There is no collective bargaining on an industry-wide basis in local transit operations," Spradling said, and it is therefore impossible to inaugurate the 40-hour week at one time, as in the case of the railroads.

The absence of industry-wide bargaining and the stubborn, unjust resistance to the 40-hour week makes it clear that such a working schedule cannot be achieved through collective bargaining for many years, he said. Congressional consideration of statutory discrimination against them was urged.

Public Job Total Shows Rise in '48

Washington.—Employment by federal, state and local governments showed a rise in the past year, according to reports released by the Census Bureau.

In January, the report said, 6,083,000 persons were on the public payroll which totaled $1,540,400,000, a year earlier employment stood at 5,842,000 with an aggregate payroll for the month of $1,202,700,000.

The federal government had 2,089,000 employes, the bureau said. It paid them $522,100,000.

State and local governments had 3,994,000 employes and paid them $868,300,000.

Largest in the state-local figures were 1,636,000 school employes, who drew $367,100,000.

In January, 1942, just after the United States entered World War II, there were 4,947,000 government employes, divided as follows:

Federal, 1,685,000; state and local, 3,262,000, including 1,230,000 school employes.

The January, 1942, payroll total was $686,600,000, or about half of the January payroll, it was divided as follows:

Federal, $296,300,000; state and local $390,300,000, including $175,400,000 in schools.

NEW RENT CURB ACT HELD RETROACTIVE

Minneapolis.—The 1949 federal rent control law was upheld in Municipal Court here.

The ruling by Judge Theodore B. Knudson, said, in brief, that Congress had a right to pass its rent bills, retroactive or otherwise, to protect home buyers. The housing shortage came as a development after the 1947 law was passed, Congress still retained widespread rent control powers, he said.

The case was a legal test of the 1949 legislation which became effective April 1. The decision nullified more than 1,000 evictions cases in Minneapolis, according to Alex Dim, area rent attorney.

NEARLY 17,000 ATTEND N. J. LABOR INSTITUTE

New Brunswick, N. J.—Nearly 17,000 persons attended labor management and public groups have participated in labor-management leadership programs since the inauguration of the series by the Extension Institute of Management and Labor Relations, according to the annual report of the institute just released. The institute was created by legislature to foster "harmony and cooperation between management and labor" in the state has conducted 243 classes in 29 different communities, enrolling 4,500 persons, and 127 film and discussion programs reaching 12,664.

A steady increase in the popularity of the institute's programs is also reported. This has been particularly true since the institute's first year ended March of 1949 when 79 courses were offered with 1,500 persons enrolled in attendance.

The report states that one of the most difficult problems faced by the institute has been the establishment of classes for the general public. With little experience in management relations programs for nonmanagement and nonunion groups the institute experimented extensively with programs and methods to motivate groups made up of teachers, social workers, clergymen, salesmen and others not ordinarily reached in management or labor classes. The institute showed little interest in the technical aspects of labor relations. On the other hand, it was found that discussions on human relations issues were very popular."

MINIMUM PAY HEARING SET FOR SOAP INDUSTRY

Washington.—A public hearing will be held in Washington, D. C., on the wider amendment of a 10-year-old determination of minimum wages of 40 cents an hour as the prevailing minimum rate in the laundry, cleaning and soap industry on government contracts for purchase of supplies under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act, it was announced.

In addition to considering what the current prevailing minimum wage is in the industry, the hearing will consider whether the determination should make provision for employment of learners at wages less than the minimum rates. It will also consider the advisability of expanding the present industry definition to include synthetic detergents, which have become an important factor in the household and institutional trade in the industry, and synthetic glycerin.

A wage order issued by the Public Labor Statistics as of August 1948, which covered about 16,000 of the 20,000 workers in the industry, shows that the median hourly earnings for all plant workers was $1.51 an hour.

$4,821 LABOR OFFICIALS FILE NON-RED AFFIDAVITS

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board announced that 4,821 officials of national and local unions in the CIO have filed noncommunist affidavits on April 1, an increase of 8,326 over the previous month.

The 84,821 affidavits currently on file represent an increase of 47 percent over the 57,609 who had filed as of April 1, 1948.

Filing of these affidavits brought 175 national unions and 6,632 locals into full compliance with the affidavit and financial report requirements of the Labor Management Relations Act as of March 31, 1949.

Group Stresses Use of Normal Methods For Labor Relations in Atomic Plants

Washington.—A special commission appointed by President Truman recommended that labor relations in the atomic energy plants owned by the U. S. Government be conducted, in so far as possible, on a normal, voluntary basis, free from government interference.

The only deviation from this general policy was the recommendation that a new labor board be created to handle disputes in an at least annual review of the commission's findings.

The commission said the use of this panel should be limited to disputes over "vital operations."

The commission, headed by William H. Davis, former chairman of the National War Labor Board, proposed no new labor legislation. It came out against total outlawing of atomic strikes. But the unions and the companies in the industry would be required to continue negotiations in any cause urgent enough for the "Labor Relations Panel" to enter. Within 10 days after the panel has issued recommendations, either party may appeal to the commission.

The commission consisted of Davis, Dr. Edwin E. White of the University of Wisconsin, and Aaron Horvitz, an arbitrator in Los Angeles.

They visited Mr. Truman and handed him their report. He made it public and said he will give it careful consideration.

The President appointed the commission last September to study labor-management relations in the atomic industry. Twice, serious strikes had been barely averted at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

An unusually difficult problem had arisen out of the fact that while atomic installations are owned by the government and controlled by the Atomic Energy Commission, its mission, labor relations are carried on between private companies and their private employ

The commission's recommendations were:

1. That management and labor in atomic plants "should normally accept" a special responsibility to seek peaceful settlement of disputes in vital portions of the industry.

2. That the Atomic Energy Commission have "absolute and final authority" on all matters of security, and that such matters be finally considered proper for collective bargaining.

3. That aside from the really vital operations in the industry, all collective bargaining be carried on normally, free from governmental interference.

4. That all collective bargaining contracts contain a provision providing that any disputes involving the interpretation or application of the contract be settled without work stoppages, by means of adequate machinery.

5. That in critical disputes, people in "the very highest levels" of management and labor be brought into the negotiations.

6. That management and labor make every effort to determine questions concerning the selection of unions to represent workers through means of agreement and "consent elections," instead of having either contests before the National Labor Relations Board.

7. That in plants where unions are recognized, the relations between the workers, management and labor cooperate to integrate the plans of the plant organization as a two-way channel of communication and of mutual understanding between management and workers.

8. That the Atomic Energy Commission make use of existing personnel, part-time officers, appointed by the President from nominations submitted by the AEC.

Growing Role of Labor in Marshall Plan Praised by Hoffman in Report on ECA

Washington.—One of the most encouraging aspects of the European Recovery Program is the role labor has been given in the plan's operation, Paul G. Hoffman, Economic Cooperation Administrator said in reassuring a report made to him by his labor advisers, Clinton S. Golden and Bert M. Jewell.

"At the end of the first year it is possible to report that labor participation is not only substantial, but has been increasing within the ERP," the report said. "Labor legislative is faster "harmony and cooperation between management and labor" in the state has conducted 243 classes in 29 different communities, enrolling 4,500 persons, and 127 film and discussion programs reaching 12,664.

The report also points out that the ECA has been surprising labor's spring in Washington, the staffing pattern provides for labor advisers in the headquarters of the Washington ECA and in each of the country missions. In addition, three labor advisers serve on the ECA's Public Advisory Board.

Trade unionists in the 16 participating countries and the United States have created an international body to safeguard the interests of workers in the operation of ERP, the report discloses. This group, known as the Labor Advisory Committee, was recognized last December by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation as the body to represent labor in questions directly affecting workers.

"The role of labor's voice in the ERP, as outlined in the report, is twofold.

"First, it means that our political parties must not only understand but the contribution labor can make to international problems. That responsibility has taken the form of providing labor a direct voice in the operation of ERP.

"Secondly, the ERP has provided the trade unions with a basis for international solidarity of the free trade unions. It has given organized labor the responsibility and determination to cooperate in achieving goals that will reap benefits, in terms of increased production and higher standards of living beyond the existence of the Marshall Plan.

"The labor advisers' first report were increasing productivity, investment policies and wages, and the over-all accomplishments within the first year of the Marshall Plan.

Essentials Took 90% of Family Income In 1947, Says BLS 3-City Survey Report

Washington.—Families spent about 90 percent of their income for essentials like food, clothing, transportation, medical care and home expenses in 1947, according to a 3-city survey made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The report on spending habits in Washington, Richmond, Va., and Manchester, N. H., said the remaining 10 percent of the family income went for "personal care, recreation, reading, tobacco, education and miscellaneous expenses."

Other statistics disclosed by the report:

Washington families managed to save an average of only $20 from their current living costs in 1947, compared to $200 saved by the average Richmond family. Manchester families had an average $148 deficit.

Food cost the average Washington family $1,242, or 22 percent of the expense dollar in 1947. In Richmond, food cost the average family $1,170, or 34 percent of expenses; while in Manchester, it ran $1,182, or 25 percent of expenditures.

Housing cost Washington families $729 (17 percent of expenses); Richmond families, $542 (17 percent of expenses); Manchester families, $546 (16 percent of expenses). Figures include rent, maintenance costs, fuel, light and refrigeration.

Family clothing costs averaged $567 in Washington (13 percent of expenses); $472 in Richmond (14 percent of expenses); $472 in Richmond (14 percent of expenses); $515 in Manchester (15 percent of expenses).

Heavy purchases of durable goods including automobiles and furnishings were reported in the 3 cities in 1947.

Automobile transportation expenditures, including purchase and maintenance, were reported in Washington, averaging $388, compared to $174 in Richmond and $211 in Manchester.

Other transportation expenditures averaged $108 in Washington; $65 in Richmond; $68 in Manchester.

Washingtonians spent an average of $147 for household furnishings and equipment, compared to $106 spent in Richmond and $232 spent in Manchester.

Medical care cost Washington families an average of $215; Richmond families, $174; Manchester families, $147.

Averages for Washington and Richmond were based on statistics from families under $7,500—a median of $10,000 after taxes—or about 97 percent of all spending units in each city. Manchester averages were based on families under $7,500—a median of $9,000—including 96 percent of all families in the city.

Families averaged 3.3 persons in Washington; 3.6 persons in Richmond, and 3.5 persons in Manchester.

TOTAL WORK STOPPAGES REPORTED DOWN IN '48

Washington.—A total of 2,419 work stoppages due to labor-management disputes were recorded for 1948, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced here in releasing final figures for the year. In 1947, 2,968 stoppages had been recorded.

Workers involved totaled 1,960,000 in 1948 as against 2,170,000 in 1947. Idleness came to 34,100,000 man-days compare dwith 34,500,000 man-days for the preceding year.

Compared with the average for the prewar period, 1935-39, almost 20 percent more strikes occurred in 1948. The number of workers involved and resultant idleness were more than approximately double the annual average for 1935-39.

JOB INCREASE IN N. Y. TOPS NATIONAL RATE

Albany.—Industrial employment in New York State increased from 1940 to 1948 by a greater percentage than in the United States as a whole, according to a report by the New York State Department of Commerce.

Data for the 8-year period compiled by the Department's Bureau of Business Research showed that New York State's industrial employment rose 25.6 percent, compared with a national gain of 24.4 percent.

MINIMUM WAGE OF $1.05 SET FOR TEXTILE GROUP

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin ordered the establishment of a minimum wage of $1.05 an hour, or $42 for a 40-hour week, in the woolen and worsted industry and the cotton broadwoven branch of the Healey Public Contracts Act. The order is effective May 1, 1949.

In addition, the Secretary established a tolerance for learners and beginners, those employes having less than 320 hours of experience in the industry, authorizing the payment of a minimum wage of not less than 90 cents an hour, or $36 for a 40-hour week, during a learning period in the same plant and occupation are paid on a piece-rate basis.

In such instances, learners and beginners employed in the same piece rates paid to experienced workers and their earnings are in excess of 90 cents an hour. The learning period is limited to 320 hours, but if the learner or beginner has had previous experience in the industry the number of hours of such experience must be deducted from the 320-hour learning period.

The Secretary's order is the first minimum wage order under the act for this industry.

There are approximately 150,000 workers in the industry.

FEBRUARY GROCERY SALES INCREASE OVER '48 TOTALS

Washington.—The Commerce Department reported that retail grocery sales in February amounted to $1,884,000,000, 7 percent below January, but 1 percent above February 1948.

The report said that chain grocery sales represented about 39 percent of the total. Chain sales were $67,000,000 below January, but $15,000,000 above February 1948. Some shortage still existed.

DAIRY PRODUCTS RATION SUSPENDED IN FRANCE

Paris.—France ended the rationing of milk, butter and cheese after nearly 10 years of controls. Officials said the government had stockpiled enough butter and cheese to maintain supplies at least until the end of May, but long lines at butter counters indicated that some shortage still existed.

Chicago Plumbers' Union To Observe 77th Birthday

By DAN SYMTH

Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—When the Chicago plumbers' union celebrates its 77th birthday May 1, it will be a double celebration. It will be the union's 100th worth of mortgages on their $1,000,000 meeting hall.

The mortgage burning will be a historic ceremony, at that. The papers will be put into a golden tray and converted to ashes with blessings of a Presbyterian minister, Rabbi and Catholic priest.

More than 4,000 leaders of organized labor, industry and government are expected to attend. Stephen Bailey, Chicago manager of the union, will act as master of ceremonies. Principal speaker will be Judge James J. Hamilton, president of the Cook County, Illinois, Board.

Plumbers' Hall, a magnificent 3-story brick and stone building with modern equipment, cost $1,250,000 when it was completed in 1928. Chicago. It has an auditorium seating 3,000 persons, a smaller hall seating 400, offices, reception rooms and garages.

Owned wholly by the 4,300 members of the local, it is a standing testimonial to the solidarity and strength of the building trades unions of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago.

The only other union hall in the city is the Chicago fire hall of 1871, while reconstruction of the burned-out city was in full swing. Fourteen men assembled in a small room in the basement of a church, organized themselves to a list of rules to govern their employment in the plumbing industry.

One rule provided that no member would work more than 10 hours a day. Another rule provided that no member would work for less than $2.50 for his day's wage. Today, wages of journeymen plumbers in Chicago are $2.50 an hour.

Until 1882, the union included gasfitters and steam fitters, but in that year the gasfitters withdrew to form their own organization. In 1886 was negotiated the first written agreement between the union and the employers' association. The 8-hour day was established for the first time in that agreement.

Other milestones in the local's history were the great lockout of 1900, the $4.50 daily wage agreed to in 1906, founding of a trade school for apprentices and journeymen in 1910, the $10 wage in 1919, the $12 wage in 1925, the $13 wage in 1927, the $14.80 wage in 1940, the $15.60 wage May 1946, the $17.20 wage in 1947 and the $18.80 wage instituted on St. Patrick's Day, 1948.

Plumbers' Hall was dedicated in June, 1927. In the words of Bailey, it was built "to supply adequate facilities for carrying on our business, to provide a home of which we could be proud, and to demonstrate that their successors may justly be proud, and to furnish them with an inspiration to do better things."

NLRB Rules Union Violated T-H Law By Picketing Firm to Gain Recognition

Washington.—One of the many applications of the Taft-Hartley law to labor relations was handed down by the National Labor Relations Board when it ruled that 2 AFL local unions violated the law when they used "recognition" boycotts or sympathy strikes.

The law makes it an unfair labor practice for a labor union to engage in a strike or boycott, or to "induce or encourage" the employes of any employer to engage in a strike or boycott, the object of which is coercing or requiring any employer or self-employed person to gain with a labor organization as the representative of his employes unless such labor organization has been certified by the NLRB as the representative of such employes."

The case grew from a strike called by local 145 of the Teamsters Union against the Bridgeport Coal Company, Bridgeport, Conn.

The strike drove concrete trucks owned by Gonik Dry Goods Company, Inc., from the construction of apartment stores in Bridgeport and Meigs and Company, a Bridgeport clothing store.

Local 145 demanded that the decisions in these cases be made by the bargaining agent for its employes.

The NLRB examiner found that both unions had violated the act's ban on secondary boycotts and recognition tactics on the ground that they also had unlawfully engaged in the strike to stop doing business with the decisions.

The ruling stated that Local 145 was not certified as the bargaining agent for the delivery service and that its acts were not protected by the law.

AFL PILOTS HAIL 20-YEAR AIR LINE SAFETY RECORD

Chicago.—Congratulating Colonial Airlines upon 20 fatality-free years of operation, Capt. Ralph Hansen, AFL's Air Line Pilots Association president, said Air Line's record is one upon which the "entire industry should look with pride."

In a letter to Sigmund Janas, president of Colonial Airlines, the head of the safety conscious pilots association, David L. Behncke, stated:

"The Air Line Pilots Association wishes to commend and congratulate Colonial Airlines on their attainment of one of the most impressive safety records in the history of air line transportation. To the nation's air line pilots, the men in those profession air safety is of paramount importance, your achievement is one of tremendous significance."

80% OF APPRENTICES ARE WAR VETERANS

Washington.—Four out of five of all apprentices employed throughout the country are war veterans, William F. Patterson, director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship, U. S. Department of Labor, said.

Speaking at a regional conference of the National Apprenticeship Commission of the American Legion, Patterson said there are more than 232,000 registered apprentices in the skilled trades. By registered apprentices are meant only those listed with the Bureau of Apprenticeship or a state apprenticeship agency.

"Management, labor and governmental agencies are cooperating to make possible the employment and training of this large number of former servicemen," Patterson said.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

AFL Legislative Group Hits Wood Bill; Measure Declared 'Worse' Than T-H Law

Washington.—The AFL's National Legislative Conference denounced the Wood bill, introduced in the House as a substitute for the administration's labor-bached Lesinski bill, and declared it is "more vicious and more oppressive than the Taft-Hartley law."

The stand of the conference was based on a detailed analysis of the Wood bill prepared by Woll, Glenn and Thatcher, counsel for the AFL, which follows:

"While it does throw several sops in labor's direction, in reality the bill enlarges and strengthens the most objectionable features of the Taft-Hartley Act, namely, the use of injunctions against alleged union unfair labor practices and in connection with so-called national emergency strikes.

INJUNCTIONS

"The new bill permits the general counsel for the NLRB to file suit for injunction in the federal courts merely upon the filing of charges alleging the union has committed any unfair labor practice, and without further investigation, and the courts are empowered to issue injunctions in such cases in their complete discretion and without any standards to guide them or safeguards to protect against indiscriminate or arbitrary orders. Under the Taft-Hartley Act, the general counsel can seek an injunction merely upon filing charges only where violations of Section 8 (b) (4), relating to secondary boycotts, are charged, and then only after a full investigation has shown the existence of facts making it reasonable to believe that the charges are true. Furthermore, in respect to the national emergency injunctions, the new bill permits the President to apply for an injunction immediately upon the threat of strike and without the requirement that a Board of Inquiry be assembled to investigate the dispute and make findings prior to the issuance of the injunction as is required under the Taft-Hartley Act.

"The few safeguards on the issuance of injunctions in cases involving jurisdictional strikes that are contained in the Taft-Hartley Act are eliminated under the new Wood bill, and under that bill either the board or the court has complete discretion to issue orders respecting jurisdictional strikes without even affording the parties to the dispute an opportunity to settle the jurisdictional dispute for themselves, as was permitted under Taft-Hartley.

"The following is a provision-by-provision comparison of the new Wood bill with the Taft-Hartley Act, showing what, if any, changes are made in respect to each of the various provisions in the Taft-Hartley Act. The analysis follows the same form as that followed when the Thomas bill was compared with the Taft-Hartley Act by the legislative analysis made in this office. The following provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act are retained, strengthened or modified by the Wood bill as indicated:

OTHER PROVISIONS

"1. Disenfranchisement of economic strikers—modified so as to permit an economic striker to vote in a representation election if he has not "since been permanently replaced for a period of 90 days prior to the election. In other words, if the economic strike has been replaced for 90 days, he cannot vote.

"2. Blanket prohibitions on restraint or coercion by unions—retained and strengthened by permitting injunctions merely upon the filing of charges and without investigation or issuance of complaint as required under Taft-Hartley.

"3. Broad prohibitions on secondary boycotting—retained completely, with the very slight exception that union employees engaged in a lawful primary strike may induce other union employees to assist them in the following limited situations: where these other employees are employed to work products specially made at the struck plant, as in a case where such products have been jobbed or contracted out, but even then only if these other employees are members of the same local union as the employes on strike and have a contract with their employer permitting them not to work on struck goods. As can readily be seen, cases where the employer has agreed that his employes need not work on struck goods, and where the employes engaged in the primary dispute are members of the same local union as employes making or working on products for the struck plant will be very few and far between, so in practical effect the so-called broadening provision is meaningless.

"4. Prohibition against jurisdictional disputes—retained and strengthened against unions by eliminating opportunity for parties to settle their own dispute and by permitting court injunction merely upon filing of charges and without issuing of complaint or other investigation.

"5. Ban on closed shop and restriction on union shop—retained in most respects, strengthened in others, and modified in some. Under the Wood bill, all closed-shop agreements requiring membership in a union earlier than 30 days after employment are outlawed, and this even includes agreements which might have been valid under the Taft-Hartley Act, such as those entered into prior to the passage of that act and made effective for a period of years. While the Wood bill does eliminate the useless union-shop election pre-requisite, it permits employes in a bargaining unit to rescind the authority of a union to enter into a union-shop agreement by majority vote. The bill further permits the employer to withdraw recognition under a union-shop agreement for two reasons in addition to failure to pay dues and initiation fees, namely, where the employer has reason to believe that the union is engaging in a wildcat strike or for being a Communist or for being affiliated with a Communist or similar organization. Further, the employer is permitted to notify a union 'of opportunities for employment,' but since the prohibitions on the making and use of union-shop agreements are very specific, it is impossible to see any material benefit whatsoever which could be derived from this provision. In all other respects, the union-shop and closed-shop agreements and the restrictions on union-shop agreements are identical with those under Taft-Hartley, including the provision making the full knowledge of state anti-closed-shop laws paramount to the federal law.

"6. Exclusion of 'supervisors' from all protection against employer discrimination and refusal to bargain—retained.

"7. Proviso permitting employer to use 'free' speech to abuse unions if no threat of reprisal—retained.

"8. Non-Communist affidavit and other filing requirements—retained as to unions and extended to include employers.

"9. Restrictions on excessive initiation fees—retained.

"10. Restrictions on 'featherbedding'—retained.

"11. Definition of good-faith bargaining—retained.

"12. Employer petitions and decertification provisions—retained.

"13. Opening of federal courts to damage suits for breaches of contracts and for violation of secondary boycott provisions—retained, with slight limitation discussed under secondary boycott provisions, above.

"14. Restrictions on welfare funds and check-off—retained and strengthened by making check-off agreements irrevocable for a maximum of one year, expiration of one year from the date of its execution, thus eliminating automatic renewal and making it necessary to procure new authorizations each year.

"15. Craft unit provio—retained.

"16. Provision for 60-day notice of termination or modification of existing agreement—retained, except that an employe striking in violation of the 60-day clause does not lose his status as an employe.

"17. Separate conciliation service—retained.

"18. Provision for enjoining strikes in emergency situations, 80-day 'cooling-off' period and 'final offer' election procedure—retained, except that action at any time a dispute is threatened without investigation or fact-finding by presidential board. However, useless last offer election is eliminated. Under the Wood bill, the safeguards inherent in an investigation by a board appointed by the President, which makes an investigation and issues findings of fact prior to the issuance of an injunction, are entirely eliminated. The board now functions only after the injunction is obtained. Thus, the Wood bill makes it impossible for the President even to attempt to settle the threatened national emergency by the appointment of a board of inquiry without first obtaining an injunction. Under the injunction the court can order the parties to the dispute to use their best efforts to settle, under the threat of contempt of court if they fail to do so. The Wood bill, therefore, would arouse all the opposition to the issuance of an injunction in the issuance of any injunction in a later dispute before the President is empowered to even try to bring about conciliation and settlement of the dispute.

"19. Restrictions on political contributions by labor organizations—retained.

"20. Separation of powers as between board and general counsel—retained, and powers of general counsel greatly expanded by giving him complete discretion to seek injunction in any case where charges may have been filed.

CONCLUSION

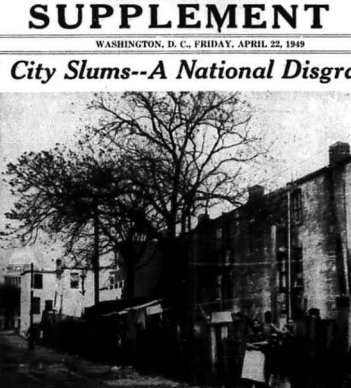
"From the foregoing section-by-section comparison of the Wood bill with the Taft-Hartley Act, it can be readily seen that, if anything, the Wood bill is more vicious and more oppressive than the Taft-Hartley Act and should be as strenuously opposed. Wherever the restrictions of the Taft-Hartley Act are loosened, it is for the most part in favor of labor, and, on the other hand, the most objectionable of the Taft-Hartley Act provisions in those dealing with injunctions against labor organizations are considerably strengthened. If the foregoing analysis is compared with the analysis of the Thomas-Lesinski bill, it can be seen that the Wood bill could not, under any circumstances, be considered in any way an adequate substitute."

AFL MASTERS, MATES UNION WHIPS CIO IN 2 ELECTIONS

New York.—Representation rights for licensed deck employees on ships of the Erie and Long Island Railroads in New York harbor were won by the AFL's Masters, Mates and Pilots.

In a National Mediation Board election the union whipped the CIO's so-called "United Railroad Workers" by 26 to 11 on the Erie and by 8 to 4 on the Long Island. The board certified the Masters, Mates and Pilots as bargaining agency.

City Slums--A National Disgrace!



Almost within the shadow of the United States Capitol is this row of alley dwellings comprising one of the most squalid slum areas in the city. It is typical of the conditions which exist in parts of nearly every large city.

An interior view of a slum area in the nation's capital city. In this room, lighted with oil lamps, are quartered a man and wife and their 10 children.

Senate Approves Public Housing Bill; Spurred by Reports on Capital's Slums

Washington.—Spurred on to final action by the existence of miserable conditions revealed in a few blocks of the Senate chamber, members of that body voted $7-13 in favor of the Truman administration's national slum clearance and low-rent public housing bill.

The bill, which had the backing of the American Federation of Labor, calls for the construction of $10,000 public housing units during the next 6 years, and provides $1,500,000,000 in federal loans and grants for slum clearance over a 5-year period.

Final action by the Senate came after disclosure here of the miserable slum conditions found almost within the shadow of the nation's Capitol. Several Senators who inspected the slum areas, which are duplicated in almost every large city in America, used the experience gained in personal observation in effective pleas for swift and sure federal action to combat this national disgrace.

The bill permits the President to authorize construction of 200,000 public housing units a year, but it is expected that the average annual rate will be in the neighborhood of 135,000 units.

In addition, the measure provides for rural housing program of grants and loans to farmers to build new farm homes and to repair existing dwellings. It also provides for a pro-

FARM OUTPUT DOUBLED

Washington.—In 1900, the average American farmer "grew food for 8 persons." Now, a report says, he "grows food for 15 persons," or nearly twice as many. Mechanization of agriculture is the main reason why this increase was possible.

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Federal Economist Warns Businessmen

New York.—Louis H. Bean, prominent economist in the Department of Agriculture, warned the nation's business leaders that they must review their present plans if we are to continue to enjoy prosperity.

In an address here, he said the long-range economic picture depends on two highly unstable factors—agricultural prices and industrial capital expenditures.

Steps must be taken, he said, to insure "that farm prices and income do not collapse under abundant production." Business, he added, should abandon its reported programs of reducing its capital expenditures by 10 percent in the next few years.

"All past experience," said Mr. Bean, "points to the fact that favorable economic and political conditions do not assure a 40 percent decline in business and investment.

"What we get instead is a decline in employment and lack of job opportunities for the few persons of working age who annually enter the labor force."

HOTEL EMPLOYES' UNION REPORTS MEMBERSHIP GAIN

Chicago.—Fine gains in membership and wages, on the railroads and in other fields, were reported by officers of the AFL's Hotel and Restaurant Employes as the union prepared to open its 52d international convention here.

President Hugo Ernst revealed that over-all membership has hit the 430,000 mark and Secretary-Treasurer Edward Miller declared the union now has more than 12,000 members in the dining car service and in other eating facilities on the railroads. That represents almost all in that class of service.

Modernization of Social Security Law Urged by 20 Prominent AFL Leaders

Washington.—AFL President William Green led a contingent of top-flight officials of American Federation of Labor affiliates who urged Congress to revise the present social security system to provide higher benefits, extended coverage and the introduction of a disability insurance program.

Stepping up its 10-year campaign, 20 spokesmen for AFL unions presented a concerted, united-front stand before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of bill H. R. 6293 which contains many of the changes proposed by the AFL to bring the nation's social security system in accord with present-day economic conditions.

Stressing the long and continued interest of labor organizations in improving "our basic social security," Mr. Green warned in his testimony that if Congress fails to expand old-age and survivors' insurance, labor "will have no other recourse" than to demand welfare plans financed by employers.

Endorsing President Truman's recommendation that the present scale of benefits be almost doubled, Mr. Green said labor is ready to pay its share of the additional money required.

Arguing for extension of coverage of the social security system to groups of employes excluded under the present law, the AFL leader said:

"There remains an insurmountable administrative obstacle to including the self-employed and other groups for which were left out of the original administrative reasons, such as many Farm workers and domestic workers should be included. Likewise, there is no longer any reason for excluding the employes of state and local political subdivisions or the employes of nonprofit and charitable institutions such as the risks encountered by these workers are the same as those confronting others.

"A common base of protection through social insurance for all gainfully occupied citizens is in the public interest."

Mr. Green specifically excluded railway employes and federal workers from coverage of the law since they are afforded protection under separate systems especially designed to meet their needs.

Nelson H. Cruikshank, director of social insurance activities for the AFL, backed up Mr. Green's testimony with specific details concerning proposed changes in the law to accomplish the goals outlined by the AFL chief. In addition he urged liberalization of the eligibility requirements under the present law so that those workers under the system are not penalized unduly by paying contributions for a number of years only to fail to qualify for any benefits because of insufficient service.

Mr. Cruikshank also called for the incorporation into the social insurance program of a disability insurance scheme to protect wage earners from the risk of wage loss because of permanent disability. He urged adoption of a Federal program to cover such risks not already covered by state workmen's compensation laws, and at the same time to provide a rehabilitation program for disabled workers.

Included among the top officers of AFL affiliates who testified before the committee were: James A. Brownlee, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Building and Metal Trades Department; L. L. Spradling, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes; Harry C. Taylor, vice president of the International Typographical Union; William C. Cooper, secretary-treasurer of the Building Service Employes Union; Lester Washburn, president of the United Automobile Workers, and H. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union.

Radio Show Produced by Hatters' Union Presented Under Employer Sponsorship

Newark, N. J.—The world premiere of the first employer-sponsored trade union radio program was broadcast here over radio station WNJR.

"Turning Points," a transcribed dramatic program, starring prominent Hollywood and Broadway actors, was produced for the AFL's United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers as part of a national campaign to make the American people aware of the union label. With the Newark broadcast as the world premiere, "Turning Points" is expected to be sponsored by local business firms throughout the country within a short time.

Sponsor for the premiere broadcast was Snyder Hat Blocks, Inc.

Primarily an entertainment program dramatizing decisive moments in history, "Turning Points" mentions the union label only once during a short appeal to the public. The star of each show, in a commercial spot, asks consumers to look for the union label when purchasing goods, calling the label a symbol of fine craftsmanship and an aid to the maintenance of the American standard of living.

The stars who have participated in the first 13 shows of this series are Milton Berle, Edward G. Robinson, Tallulah Bankhead, Edward Arnold, Ralph Bellamy, Otto Kruger, Rosalind Russell, Richard Whorf, J. Edward Bromberg, Canada Lee, John Carradine, Joseph Calleia and Joan Ferrer.

Commenting on the series of broadcasts, Zeritsky, president of the United Hatters Union, said:

"We expect 'Turning Points' to go long way not only in making the American people aware of what the union label stands for, but in building better employer-employe relations. It is heartening to see that management has backed our efforts in Newark in giving the public a correct view of the trade union movement. It is obvious that cooperation such as this will help both the sponsor and labor. The sponsor will receive the benefit of labor's vast purchasing power while labor, backed by public-oriented sponsors, will have a unique opportunity to acquaint the American people with the significance of the union label as their symbol of fine workmanship and the maintenance of decent standards of living."

Nonfarm Employment Declines Again; Average Weekly Wage Off $1 in March

Washington.—Nonfarm employment declined in March to the seasonal trend which has been in evidence since the first of the year, according to reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The decline of 150,000 during the month contrasted with an increase of more than 200,000 in the same month last year.

The bureau estimated employment in the nonfarm establishments at 42,848,000 in mid-March, which was about 750,000 below March, 1948. Manufacturing industries alone reported a drop of that much over the year. Declines in other categories—mining, transportation, trade and the service industries—were offset by a rise in government payrolls and small gains in construction and finance over the year.

The average work week in factories also dropped a half-hour—from 39.4 hours to 38.9 hours—and average weekly earnings of factory workers dropped $1 to $57.37. This was about $3 below the record high of last December.

Building contractors failed to increase their employment in March, reflecting the slowness of the seasonal upswing in residential construction.

Total construction employment, 1,824,000, however, was still slightly above the level of March, 1948.

AFL TRANSIT WORKERS WIN NEW PAY INCREASE

Trenton.—Under an arbitration award, AFL transit workers here, represented by Division 540 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes, will receive a 13-cent hourly pay increase.

In addition to the increase, union leaders expressed gratification over additional major gains in the award. The first extends the existing paid vacation system to 3 weeks for employes with 15 years' service. This provision immediately benefits 17 percent of the company's employes, Zimring said. The arbitrators also ordered paid holidays increased from 3 to 6 by inclusion of New Year's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 and upped the guaranteed pay for extra operators from $42 to $48.24.